

REMARKS

The Applicant appreciates the courteous and complete examination of the application by the Examiner. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, a reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested.

In order to expedite the prosecution of this application, claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and claims 1 and 3-12 have been amended. Claims 1 and 3-12 are now in the present application.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 102 claim rejections

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for discovering the prior art references relied upon in this office action. The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ashoor, and claims 1, 5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Luly et al. The Examiner stated that claims 2, 4 and 7-11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include all of the allowable subject matter from cancelled claim 2, thereby overcoming all rejections and putting amended claim 1 in condition for allowance.

Claims 3-11 are felt to patentably distinguish over the prior art references because of their above-mentioned dependency from amended claim 1.

Independent claim 12 has been amended to include all of the allowable subject matter from cancelled claim 2, thereby overcoming all rejections and putting amended claim 12 in condition for allowance.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 103 claim rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashoor in view of Vignier. Since amended claim 1 now includes the allowable subject matter from cancelled claim 2, then claims 3 and 6 are felt to patentably distinguish over the prior art references because of their above-mentioned dependency from amended claim 1.

With the above amendments being fully responsive to all outstanding rejections and formal requirements, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that there are further issues which might be resolved by means of telephone interview, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at (403) 444-5695, or email at davidguerra@internationalpatentgroup.com

No additional fee is due.

Respectfully Submitted,

/David A. Guerra/

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